

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond street.—
REVUE EN PASTEL—REGLER FIX.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery, THE NIGHTS IN A
BARBOON—JOHN JONES—BROOKLYN THEATRE.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Day
and Evening.—PANTHON HEART OF HUNTER—CROSS OF GOLD—
BRAVE, SEA LEON AND OTHER CHIMERE.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanic Hall, 472 Broad-
way.—BURLINGAME, SONES, DANCERS, &c.—BROOKLYN THEATRE.

NIRLO'S SALOON, Broadway.—LIVELY MINSTRELS IN
BURLINGAME, SONES, DANCERS, &c.—BROOKLYN THEATRE.

IRVING HALL, Fourteenth street.—GEO. CHERRY'S MIN-
STRELS IN FANTASYSON, DANCERS, &c.—BROOKLYN THEATRE.

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 63 Broadway.—
SONS, DANCERS, BURLINGAME, &c.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 655 Broadway.—SONS,
DANCERS, BURLINGAME, &c.

STUYVESANT THEATRE, 655 Broadway.—MRS. ANNA
BARNUM'S CHAMBER CONCERT.

GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 615 Broadway.—DRAWING
ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, BALLADES, FANTASIES, &c.

New York, Tuesday, May 21, 1861.

THE SITUATION OF AFFAIRS.

We learn by the Persia, which arrived off Cape
Race on Saturday night, and a summary of whose
news we give to-day, that it was confidently be-
lieved, when she left Liverpool on the 11th inst.,
that letters of marque from the Montgomery gov-
ernment had reached Liverpool and London, and
that vessels had actually left Liverpool with these
letters. A meeting of the Privy Council and law officers
of the Crown was held at Whitehall on Sunday for the
purpose of preparing a proclamation from the Queen
to be issued on the Tuesday following, warning
British subjects against illicit or overt complicity
in the civil war now raging in America. Lord
Derby had expressed the hope in the House of
Lords that British subjects interfering in our con-
test would get no redress from their govern-
ment, but that their blood should be on their own
heads. Lord Granville replied that such would be
the natural result, of course.

The intelligence from Washington to-day is of
the most important character. The first fight in
that quarter came off on Saturday afternoon be-
tween two United States vessels and the rebel
batteries at Sewall's Point in Hampton Roads, six
miles from Old Point Comfort. The batteries are
still unharmed, and is the eighth and last of the
works now in the hands of the rebels, which de-
fend the approaches to Norfolk, and is regarded as
a very important work of offence against the
blockade of James river, where there are now
lying twenty prizes laden with tobacco. The
United States steamer Star (formerly the Monticello),
commanded by Captain Ward, arrived during the action,
and the steamer Freeborn immediately joined in, opening a heavy fire
with her thirty-two pounders, driving out the rebels,
who were commanded by a mounted officer. She
then hauled off, and proceeded to Washington
with despatches by orders of Commodore Stringham.
On her way up she captured two small ves-
sels on Sunday near Cedar Point, one of them hav-
ing fifty men on board bound for the rebel army.
The Freeborn brought her prizes to Washington,
and anchored there under the guns of the Navy
Yard.

The rumored attack on a coast guard boat in the
Potomac, by a propeller from Richmond, is authori-
tatively denied. It appears that Richmond is so
efficiently blockaded as to render the sailing of
any rebel craft impossible.

The Postmaster General has issued an order to
cut off all the steamship mails on the coast, and
all the mails on river steamers plying to the se-
ceded States. The Secretary of War has also
issued an order for the rigid inspection of the bar-
acks and quarters in and around Washington by
competent military officers for sanitary purposes.

Colonel Vosburgh, of the Seventy-first New
York regiment, died of hemorrhage of the lungs
at the Washington Navy Yard yesterday morning.

The rebels at Harper's Ferry are being reinforced
from the South. 2,000 troops from Mississippi
arrived there on Saturday, and two regiments
from Alabama on Sunday. They are said to be a
hard looking set of fellows. There were in all
about 8,000 troops there. An important move-
ment was made from that point yesterday.
A body of 700 men were sent to take
up a position opposite Williamsport, a
small town in Maryland, seven miles from
Hagerstown, and twenty-six miles south of Cham-
bersburg. It was said that there are several Che-
rookee Indians from North Carolina in the ranks.
Another force of 1,500 men are expected at
Williamsport in a day or two, where it was sup-
posed that a permanent camp will be established.
A government contractor of Hagerstown, who has
just returned from Harper's Ferry, reports that the
troops look very badly, the only efficient looking
men being the Kentucky companies, and they were
fighting among themselves. They were seizing
quantities of flour on the trains of the Baltimore
and Ohio Railroad, bound for Baltimore. Small
arms are being sent to the men.

Col. Ruggles, commanding a portion of the
rebels in Virginia, has issued a general order
from his headquarters at Fredericksburg, in which
he states that the troops are only called out to de-
fend their homes, their firesides and their families
from the aggressions.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Mont-
gomery government, in their report on the mes-
sage of Mr. Davis, go into an elaborate history of
Southern grievances, and narrate all the causes of
the present movement, which they claim to be a
legitimate and justifiable as the Revolution of the
Colonies in 1776.

With reference to the position of Cairo, we have
important and reliable news. The garrison there
consists of 4,000 men, besides a reserve force of
between three and four thousand in the immediate
vicinity. There are fifteen guns mounted in bat-
tery at a position commanding both the Missis-

sippi and Ohio rivers, the former to a distance
of three miles northwest of the city, and the latter
to a distance of a mile and a half. These were
deemed amply sufficient for the protection of the
place, and as the only available road to Cairo is
by the river, the citizens and garrison had not
the least fear of an attack from General Pillow.
The reports of serious sickness at Cairo are en-
tirely unfounded. Ten thousand troops were sta-
tioned at Camp Dennison, Ohio.

By the steamer De Soto, from Havana, which
arrived here yesterday, we have news from the
Gulf fleet and Key West. The Niagara and Hun-
tsville had taken several prizes and sent them North,
and the United States fleet at Key West had taken
other prizes. A Northern vessel had been taken
by the rebels at Apalachicola, Fla., and it was re-
ported that they had hanged her captain. The
newly appointed Admiralty Judge and District
Attorney of the Confederate States arrived at Key
West for the purpose of organizing their Court, but
finding the place so thoroughly loyal to the United
States, they did not attempt it, but made a pre-
cipitate retreat from the city. More supplies have
been thrown into Fort Pickens. A number of
laborers and artillery horses, from Cuba, have just
been landed at Key West. A vessel from
New Orleans was detained there, and another vessel
bound for New Orleans altered her course at Key West. From
Havana we learn that a slight misunderstanding
existed between the Consul General of the United
States and England on the subject of the late re-
ported sale of the Southern privateer William H.
Webb to British subjects in that port. The United
States Consul General imagined that the sale was
only a blind to enable the vessel to sail under the
British flag, but British residents maintained it
was a bona fide transaction.

THE NEWS.

In the Board of Aldermen last evening a very
important communication was received from the
Union Defence Committee, respecting the dis-
bursement of the million dollars entrusted to
them for the purposes of the war. The various
sums expended by the Defence Committee for the
use of three thousand and twenty-six families de-
pendent upon volunteers connected with forty-
three different regiments, amount to \$34,300. In
respect to the future requirements for the contin-
uance of their action in aid of the necessary
equipment and outfit of the military force, the
committee say that it is inexpedient to give further
aid to any regiment which is not to enlist
for three years; and that they will re-
quire \$200,000, as near as they can ascertain, for
future expenditures. The committee are of op-
inion that if a general system of aid to families of
volunteers is to be maintained and applied to the
more permanent organization of forces from
appropriations to be made from the city treasury,
the disbursement of such funds, involving the dis-
tribution of somewhere about two millions five hun-
dred thousand dollars of public moneys, through
a possible period of several years, would be a sub-
ject unsuitable for continued administration by the
committee. If they continue to administer the dis-
bursement to the families of the volunteers a fur-
ther appropriation will be required, as the balance
of the one hundred thousand dollars not already
expended, or not required for putting the fourteen
regiments in the field, would be exhausted in a
few weeks at the rate of supply to families afforded
by the committee.

The Board of Councilmen met last evening, and
disposed of considerable routine business. A com-
munication was received from the Comptroller,
transmitting a copy of the City Inspector's cer-
tificate upon which he drew warrants under Hack-
ley's contract for cleaning the streets. A copy of
the communication from the Mayor announcing the
death of Colonel Vosburgh, which is published in
the proceedings of the Aldermen, was received
and placed on file. The Committee on Salaries
and Officers reported in favor of authorizing the
heads of departments to employ clerks to supply
the places of the clerks who have gone to the war.
The paper was recommitted, in order that the
names and positions of the clerks might be in-
serted in the report. A resolution was concurred
in to purchase a steam engine for Engine Company
No. 21. The Board concurred with the Aldermen
in the resolutions relative to the death of Colonel
Vosburgh.

The effect of the blockade of Southern ports is
very much felt in Havana, where the prices of
such articles as are usually supplied from those
sources have materially advanced. Thus, hog's
lard, which in April was less than \$17 the quintal,
or hundred weight, has gone up to \$22. Georgia
and South Carolina rice, which was selling three
weeks ago at \$1.50 the arroba of twenty-five
pounds, cannot be had now at \$2. Indian corn
has just doubled in price, having gone from
43c. to 87c. the arroba. The same may be said
more or less, of hams, bacon, potatoes, onions and
other articles of daily consumption. But this is
only the beginning. If the civil war should
last the worthy Habaneros will be as badly off
as if they were included in the blockade; for there
can be no doubt that the prices of all those articles
which constitute the necessities of life will be very high.
It would be no consolation to tell them they could have
all their provisions from New York, for they all de-
voutly believe, as a writer in the *Diario* says,
that some articles are better and cheaper from the
South. Lard, for instance, is purer, they say,
because "at the North the oil part is extracted."
The proximity of Havana to the mouth of the
Mississippi and the Southern Atlantic ports, where
vessels can run to and fro in a week, is the prin-
cipal reason why it is cheaper, more advantageous,
and certainly more expeditious for the Havana
people to get their supplies from the South than
from the Northern ports, from which they are by
comparison so far removed; for the less distance
a vessel has to traverse the less freight will have
to be paid, and the cheaper the goods she carries
can be sold.

Information has been received that Professor
Grant is about to leave this city in the steamer
Catacoas for Fortress Monroe, for the pur-
pose of placing one of his largest calcium lights
upon that work. The reflector of the lamp will
have a diameter of three feet. All those who were
on the skating pond last winter and experienced
the advantage of this kind of light, will readily
conceive how such a beacon could be made useful
to illuminate the entrance of the Chesapeake, &c.,
so that no vessel could pass unobserved at night,
and also as a signal that the ports there are block-
aded.

The Southern journals indulge in bestowing
some very fancy names upon some of our distin-
guished men. For instance, they call the President
"the drunken sot who now occupies the White
House in Washington." General Scott, since it
was ascertained that the South had been egregi-
ously hoaxed in the rumor of his resignation,
they call "Butcher Scott." And Major General
Butler they style "Pecayune Butler." While
Twigg is the model of a patriot, Floyd is a pat-
tern of honesty, Beauregard is the beau ideal of
a gentleman, and Jeff. Davis is the great cham-
pion of human rights and human liberty.

The Legislature of North Carolina propose to
give five millions of dollars to carry on the war.
This is precisely the same piece of a transparent

trick that the Legislature of Tennessee enacted
when they voted five millions. There is not a
money sufficient in the treasury of either State to
buy, or sell, for one regiment of men, and the
bonds of both are setting at the following
figures:—
North Carolina's, 53
Tennessee's, 41 1/2

Polls have been opened at the various military
encampments in Virginia to allow the soldiers to
vote on the ordinance of secession. The reason
given for thus opening the polls prior to the day
designated by the constitution for holding the State
election, is that the soldiers may on that day be
engaged in active duty, and be thus deprived of
casting their ballots. The authorities in Virginia
do not intend to lose a single trick whereby the
Old Dominion may be carried over to Jeff. Davis.

Nearly all the ordinance which remained perfect
at Norfolk has been removed for safety to points
in the interior. Most of the machinery of the Har-
per's Ferry arsenal has also been removed to
Richmond.

D. H. Todd, of New Orleans, brother of Mrs.
President Lincoln, has been appointed a First Lieut-
enant in the army of the confederates. W. W.
Crane & Co., in whose employ Mr. Todd has been
for the last five years, have given him an outfit,
and consented to continue his salary as long as the
war lasts.

The Montgomery Advertiser of the 16th inst.
says that the various accounts about hundreds of
letters of marque having been granted by the War
Department of the Southern confederacy, and that
thousands of applications are already on file, is a
gross error. Applications for that business are
made to the Collectors of the different ports and
not to the department at Montgomery, where
none have been received. A number of applica-
tions have been made to the Collectors of New
Orleans, Mobile and other Southern ports.

Gen. Bragg's command at Pensacola now num-
bers ten thousand rank and file.

The Canadian, from Liverpool on the 9th and
London on the 10th of May, reached Father
Point yesterday morning on her way to Quebec.
She brings no news from London, so that her Eu-
ropean advices are only two days later than
those received by the Persia.

By the Persia, which arrived off Cape Race on
Saturday evening, we have European advices up
to the 12th inst.

Cotton had advanced one-eighth of a penny in
Liverpool, with sales of forty-two thousand bales.
The flour and provision markets were firm. Gen-
erally speaking, the markets for American produce
were excited.

The London money market was stringent but
stationary.

From France we learn that the harvest pros-
pects were very bad, and that the wheat crop
had been seriously injured by frost. A government
bill asks of the Legislature a credit of one hun-
dred and forty-nine millions of francs to carry
on public works and other imperial service. The
army exceeded the estimate contained in the
budget largely.

There was no change in Italian affairs. Count
Teleki, the Hungarian patriot, had been murdered
in his house.

It was said that the Grand Duke Michael,
of Russia, had gone to Poland on a mission of
conciliation. Nothing of importance had transpired
in Warsaw.

By the De Soto we have news from Havana to
the 16th of May. The sugar market remained
very heavy. Nothing doing in American freights.
Exchange on Northern American cities rated at
from two to four per cent discount, but there were
no financial transactions, with New Orleans.
Three hundred and fifteen thousand boxes and
over fifteen thousand hogsheads of sugar remained
on hand. A number of patriotic Union sustain-
ing Americans reached home in the De Soto.

John Forsyth has been chosen Mayor of Mobile
by the Common Council, to fill the vacancy caused
by the resignation of Col. John Withers.

J. W. Crisfield has been nominated as the Union
candidate for Congress in the First district of
Maryland.

Operations have been suspended at the cotton
mills near Elkton, Cecil county, Maryland, for the
want of a sufficient supply of cotton.

The sales of cotton yesterday were less active. Hold-
ers were firm in their views, while purchasers seemed
disposed to wait the receipt of private letters by the
Canadian, or the arrival of late news by the Persia.
The business in sterling exchange also tended to check trans-
actions. The sales, in lots, footed about 700,000 bales,
closing on the basis of 14c. for middling uplands, while
for even lots 14 1/2c. were asked. Flour was in moderate
demand, and closed dull for common and medium grades
of State and Western. Extra grades were unchanged.
Southern flour was firm and sales fair. Wheat was
heavy, and cheaper at the close for the lower and middling
qualities, while choice white was firm. The sales were ac-
tive, corn was in fair demand, but closed heavy and low-
er, especially for new mixed. Corn was heavy and lower,
with sales of city and Western mess at \$17 a \$17 1/2 and
of prime at \$15. The inclemency of the weather checked
sales of sugars, which were confined to about 100 hhds.
Cuba and 75 boxes, at prices given in another column.
Coffee was steady and quiet. Freight engagements were
moderate and rates rather heavy; wheat, in ships' bags,
was taken for Liverpool at \$4, and for London at 9d.;
with sugar, in a Bremen vessel for Liverpool, at 50s.

HORACE GREELY AND BENJAMIN WOOD—
TREASON AND THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

The New York Tribune is ferocious in its at-
tacks upon the Hon. Benjamin Wood, because
he has come out with a card in which he as-
sumes the responsibility of all the political edi-
torial articles of the *Daily News* of this city.
Mr. Wood avows himself as the editor and prop-
rietor of the paper, and his sentiments are there-
fore his sentiments. Mr. Wood has been elected
a member of Congress for a district of
New York, and the opinions he expresses now
through his journal he will no doubt maintain
in his proper person in the House of Representa-
tives when Congress meets in July. He has
a right to express his views within proper limits
without being gagged, by being made subject
as the Tribune suggests, either to the opera-
tion of a mot or "the process of the District
Attorney" to "bring his paper to a natural ter-
mination."

The News is opposed to the course of the ad-
ministration and opposed to the war. We differ
with that paper and its editor, for we think war
is now the only possible solution of the ques-
tion at issue. But Mr. Wood has a right to give
utterance to his sentiments, provided he does
not embark in any reasonable practices. The
expression of an opinion is not treason, but the
indefensible blighting of every American
citizen. The same constitution and
code of laws which make treason a capi-
tal offense jealously guard the free-
dom of speech and the liberty of the
press. The first amendment of the constitu-
tion is plain and explicit. It is as follows:—
"Congress shall make no law abridging the
freedom of speech or of the press." Let treas-
on be put down; but neither the federal gov-
ernment, nor its officers, nor Congress, have
any power to put down the freedom of the
press; and woe to the country when such an
attempt shall ever be seriously made. Treason
and the free expression of opinion through the
press must be carefully distinguished. The
law of treason is to protect the existence of
the government; the freedom of the press
guaranteed by the constitution is the sacred
palladium of the liberties of the people. Both
are compatible and consistent, indeed the free-

dom of the press is the best security of a free
government, and is far more necessary to its
existence than the law of treason. But if one
or other of these fundamental laws must be
abandoned, who would dare to propose to
sacrifice a free press, whose beneficial influence
is continual, in order to give wider scope to a
law which does not come into operation once
in half a century, and is by no means essential
to the preservation of the government? The
constitution has left the punishment of treas-
on to the discretion of Congress, which might
make it fine or imprisonment. But as regards
the press, Congress has no discretion—it cannot
abridge its freedom. The freedom of the press,
therefore, stands upon a broader basis and upon
higher ground than any treason law.

How absurd is the doctrine of the Tribune
that to oppose the war is treason. If that were
the case, then no matter how unjust and how
disastrous to the interests of the country a war
might be, and if it lasted for ten years, no one
could advocate peace without being indicted as a
traitor and incurring the penalty of a capital
offense. Was Lord Chatham regarded as a
traitor in England when he denounced in Parlia-
ment the war against the independence of the
American colonies? Was Horace Greeley a
traitor when he denounced the war with Mex-
ico, and expressed a hope that our troops
might be cut to pieces?

To object to Mr. Wood's articles as treason-
able, because they advocate peace, comes with a
very bad grace from the editor of the Tribune,
who last fall, immediately after the Presi-
dential election, published editorial articles day
after day, of which the two following extracts
are samples:—

"If the cotton States quietly and earnestly wish
to withdraw peacefully from the Union, we think
they should be allowed to do so. Any attempt to
compel them by force to remain would be contrary to
the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Inde-
pendence—contrary to the fundamental ideas of
human liberty as based—N. Y. Tribune, Nov. 1860.

"We repeatedly asked those who dissent from our
view of this matter to tell us frankly whether they do, or
do not, assent to Mr. Jefferson's statement in the
Declaration of Independence, that governments derive
their just powers from the consent of the governed,
and ever any form of government becomes destructive
to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or
abolish it, and institute a new government, &c., &c. We
heartily accept this doctrine, believing it intrinsically
sound, beneficial, and one that, universally accepted,
is calculated to prevent the shedding of seas of human
blood. And if it justified the secession from the British
empire of three millions of colonists in 1776, we do not
see why it would not justify the secession of five millions
of Southerners from the federal Union in 1861.—N. Y.
Tribune.

Up to the very bombardment of Sumter the
editor of the Tribune continued to write in this
strain, while the Herald pressed on Mr. Bu-
chanan's government, as it afterwards did on
Mr. Lincoln's, the necessity of marshalling sixty
thousand men on the Potomac for the defence
of the national capital—the policy which the
administration has now adopted, and which has
saved Maryland and Washington, and will prob-
ably save the Union at the eleventh hour.
The Tribune advocated the right of peaceable
secession, the right of the Confederate States
to break up the Union, and pronounced any
attempt to interfere with them as "contrary to
the immortal Declaration of Independence, and
the fundamental basis of human liberty." For
expressing this idea in a mitigated form, in
fact for less than this, the Tribune holds up Mr.
Wood to public odium as a traitor. What was
Greeley, for the five months from Novem-
ber to April, during which he championed the
cause of secession? Is he not now worse than
a pot calling a kettle black? He accuses Mr.
Wood of selfishness, and talks a great deal
about his lottery policies in the South. How
do we know that Greeley was not actuated by
a motive equally selfish in encouraging rebel-
lion?—or how do we know that his motives are
now free from selfishness in advocating a war
of extermination to put it down? Certain it is
the editorial articles of Horace Greeley are
quite as uncertain as the lottery tickets of Ben-
jamin Wood.

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND—SYMPATHY
OF CANADA WITH THE NORTHERN STATES.—We
see, by our telegraphic despatches of yesterday,
that a Canadian regiment has been offered to
and accepted by the President. The State of
Maine has had similar offers of assistance from
the people of New Brunswick to complete the
quota required of it by the government. There
is no doubt that if the British Provinces
save the Northern States placed in any ex-
tremity, troops would come pouring over the
border by thousands to our aid. Canada has
a deep stake in the integrity and prosperity of
this republic. Leaving out of the question the
strong inclination which the people of the
upper Province are known to entertain for our
institutions, their material interests bind them
closely to us. The trade of Canada with the
United States is much larger than with any
other country, Great Britain not even excepted.
As evidence of the fact, we give the official re-
turns for 1857, premising that since then a
large addition has been made to the figures
quoted to the credit of the United States:—

	Value of exports.	Value of imports.
Great Britain.....	\$2,775,511 3 1	4,389,746 6 5
N. American countries.....	218,899 15 0	1,172,922 2 0
British West Indies.....	—	6,705 13 10
United States.....	5,301,809 0 6	5,356,162 14 10
Other foreign countries.....	66,674 15 4	217,052 14 8
Total.....	\$8,362,994 14 5	9,877,649 11 9

In the same year the aggregate of the Cana-
dian and American tonnage engaged in the in-
land navigation between Canada and the United
States was 10,428,725 tons. Thus it will be
seen that there can be no protracted interrup-
tion of this steadily progressing trade between
the two countries without a vast amount of
distress and suffering being inflicted on Cana-
dian interests.

Lord John Russell would do well to ponder
over these facts. If he proposes to play fast
and loose with us on the privateer question, he
had better look out that this foolish policy
does not lose Canada to the British Crown.
The people of the Provinces are not going to
let themselves be dragged into difficulties with
us and ruined merely to carry out the mis-
taken idea that the recognition of the Mont-
gomery government would at once restore
England her cotton supplies. If we have got
to fight her on that point she may depend upon
it that Canada will not be left out of our cal-
culations. While we give her plenty of em-
ployment for her navy on our coasts, we shall
render the maintenance of a large British army
in the Provinces indispensable. Let her there-
fore balance the cost of these prospective na-
val and military expeditions against the loss
that the interruption of her cotton manufactures
by the blockade of the Southern ports will
cause her. The one will be protracted, while
the other, if she maintains a strict neutrality,
will be only temporary. The true interest of
England, putting all political consistency out
of the question, would be to take part with the
strong side; but we do not even ask her to
do this; we will be satisfied if she will stand
aside and let us fight out our own quarrel. If

she will persist in going into the melee, she
must take heed of the consequences. "A
bloody nose and a rent garment," says the
Spanish proverb, "are the lot of those who in-
terfere in family disputes."

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SECESSIONISTS SUSPICIOUS
OF BEING SOLD.—The Charleston Mercury
publishes the following extract from the New
York Herald, to wit:—

It begins, therefore, to be not improbable that a bloody
conflict may be averted until the time shall have come
for Congress to meet. In that case, there may still be a
peaceful settlement of difficulties, and an opportunity
will be afforded of avoiding a "fratricidal contest," one
of the London Post recently remarked, "in which the
lancets can be won, except those stained in the best
blood of America, and which has been needlessly and
wickedly provoked." The very highest and first duty of
Congress will be to consider amendments to the constitu-
tion, so specific and unambiguous in their nature that
the same practical liberty will be restored which existed
at the time of Washington. The arms of secessionists
would fall from their hands in an instant, if the olive
branch were judiciously extended to the South, so that
every future fear of an encroachment upon or curtail-
ment of their rights were removed. "The tree of dis-
union, which has borne such noxious fruits," would thus
"be levelled to the earth. Why cumbereth it the
ground?"

To which our contemporary in question ap-
pends the following significant remarks:—

It is with no little suspicion that we regard this in-
itiative, inasmuch as we were told that a similar
sentiment some distance south of New York. We
trust in God South Carolina has not suffered her com-
merce to be cut up and undertaken the hazard and ex-
pense of war for nothing.

"No little suspicion!" "Indications of a
similar sentiment some distance south of New
York!" No doubt of it. These indications
have been very strongly developed of late in
Maryland. The policy pursued by General
Butler in that State, of a respect so generous
for the constitutional rights of that people as
to be ready at once to protect them against a
servile insurrection, has done a world of ser-
vice to the Union cause in that quarter, and in
Virginia, and in Kentucky, and in Missouri.
Mr. Lincoln's administration, thus far, has
done nothing in the prosecution of this
war to give cause of offence to the
loyal, sensible Union men of the South,
but everything to encourage them in the
belief of an early deliverance from the
terrible despotism of Jeff. Davis. And so, we
can repeat the words of our Charleston contem-
porary, to this extent, that "we trust in God
South Carolina has not suffered her commerce
to be cut up and undertaken the hazard and ex-
pense of war for nothing;" because we
trust that she will soon be cured of her folly,
and brought back under the shelter of the
Union, never again to try the disastrous game
of secession.

Let Mr. Lincoln follow up the policy of a
careful observance of the constitutional rights,
and a generous protection of the peculiar in-
stitutions of the South, regardless of abolition
clamors and secession carrels, and the armies
of the Union will find hosts of allies in the
Southern States, even though Gen. Mansfield
and Gen. Butler continue their Southern pro-
gress from Virginia, by the inland route, to
Texas.

THE ARMED INVASION FROM CANADA EX-
PLAINED.—We published yesterday a notice of
motion given by Mr. Rymal, in the Canadian
Legislature, to inquire "Whether the govern-
ment are aware that the territory of the State
of Vermont, one of the United States of
America, has been invaded by an armed force
from this Province, accompanied by persons in
office, one of whom is an adviser of her Ma-
jesty's representative in this Province, and
what steps, if any, they intend taking in order
to bring the violators of international law to
justice."

The Toronto Leader gives the following ex-
planation, which puts the affair in a rather
indiscreet point of view:—

"The armed force" in question is Mr. Solicitor General
Morin and his co-student, Mr. Desaulles. It is a great
force to call the expedition of those gentlemen an "armed
force," as it is generally believed that the only "arms"
of serviceable value which they carry are their wits, and
their own flesh and blood appetites. It is
hard to look at this "affair of honor" with a serious face.

We learn from other journals that the Solicitor
General, a Cabinet officer, having crossed
into Vermont to engage in mortal combat with
Mr. Desaulles, both forgot the bullets for the
pistols; hence the allusion to the arms not being
"serviceable." Why did not Mr. Rymal simply
state the fact that these two gentlemen had
passed the frontier to fight a duel, instead of
putting on the journal of the House a serious
notice, calculated to mislead the public mind
on both sides of the line? No doubt the
Canadian government is friendly to the North,
and Mr. Rymal designs to embarrass it as far
as he can, not probably, because he sympa-
thizes with the Confederate States, but out of
pure opposition to the ministry, which he seeks
to overthrow.

NEWS FROM HAVANA.

ARRIVAL OF THE DE SOTO—LANDING OF CHINESE
COOLIES—SUGAR MARKET DULL—NO PROFITS
FOR AMERICAN VESSELS—RATES OF EXCHANGE,
ETC., ETC., ETC.

The steamer De Soto, Captain Johnston, arrived at
this port yesterday from Havana, bringing a large
number of passengers and heavy mail.

The De Soto left New York on the 6th of May, arrived
at Havana on the 11th, and left on her return on the 16th
instant.

The Havana markets were generally dull, sugar par-
ticularly so. No 12 good and strong will hardly be-
quoted at 6 1/2 to 6 3/4 real per arroba. Stock 235,000
boxes sugar in Havana. Molasses 1 to 1 1/4 real per keg.

No activity in freight or domestic produce. The rates
were:—For vessels United States flags, \$24 to \$24 1/2 per
ton. European flags, \$24 to \$24 1/2. Less demand for
American vessels at this time at above proportionate
rates. Many vessels would leave for the States in bal-
last, as no freights were to be had at any price.

Ship Rate Hooper arrived at Havana on the 15th of
May, after eighty-nine days passage from Macao, with
five hundred coolies. The Alliance, thornridge and Francis
F. Seab had arrived and discharged coolies, and would
return to the States in ballast.

Exchange on London 6 to 7 per cent premium; Paris, 6
to 7 per cent discount; Northern cities United States, 2
to 3 per cent, New Orleans, no business.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

On the Welland Railway Saturday night a heavy freight
train, drawn by two engines, came in collision with an
up-train at Allandale, killing three men and badly smash-
ing three engines. The engineer has been arrested.